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The Trail Blazer

OFFICIAL ORGAN METROPOLITAN HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION • OAKLAND • CALIF.

Volume III

MAY ☆ 1943

Number 2



- ☆ Clean Your Tack
 - ☆ Polish Your Silver
 - ☆ Groom Your Favorite Mount
- for

METROPOLITAN'S HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION HORSE SHOW

July 11th

Leona Stables

Events

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An Open Letter To All Members

☆ As your President for 1943, it gives me a great deal of pleasure to greet you through the medium of the TRAIL BLAZER. I am also glad to announce that we have today the largest membership of any year since the Association was organized.

As this letter goes to press the total paid-up membership is 535, with an additional 65 honorary members; these consist of those who joined our armed forces.

Due to changed conditions it will be impossible to hold our Annual Portuguese Flat Barbecue — we will all miss it.

In casting about for an activity which could replace the barbecue your Executive Committee has decided to put on "The First Annual Metropolitan Horsemen's Association Show." I hope this will have hearty support and approval.

I have appointed George Walling to head up the Show Committee and to be the active Show manager. George with his usual enthusiasm has already appointed various Committee chairman, and they are **hard at work**.

This is your show—I hope it will be the forerunner of many successful shows in the years to come. I hope all our members will get behind our first show 100%.

All entries will be from our own members. There will be no outsiders showing. You will be notified fully as to all details. So come to our show, bring the entire family. I know you will thoroughly enjoy the day and have a lot of fun.

"I'll be seeing you at the Horse Show".

Sincerely, Harold D. Knudsen

Bits . . .

☆ Frank Parrish is now running a sheep ranch owned by Phil Herline, member of the Sheriff's Posse . . . the Redwood Stable's Breakfast Ride was most successful — the group left the Redwood Stable at 10:00 a.m. and arrived at Big Bear at noon for breakfast — the guests numbered 59 . . . Walter Hamby has disposed of his interests here in Oakland and decided to go in for cattle ranching on his new place in Ashland, Oregon — family and all have gone north . . . Don't forget the Shrine Circus — May 14th - 23th — the Shrine Rangers will participate as ushers for three nights in the Oakland Auditorium . . . all Metropolitan Horsemen's mail is now being addressographed — or haven't you noticed? Many thanks to Bill Barnett for his kindness in making this possible . . . The Diamond B is credited with having 100% membership in the Association — and a Victory Garden sprouting carrots for horses . . . the Windy Gulch Trail is now in the process of being repaired — "thank you" Trails Committee . . . If you have lined up that tenth, ninth, or eighth member and can't find a membership blank anywhere, phone the information in to Ted Dryer or Claire Fant pronto . . . Have you heard about the Cow Palace at the Diamond B Ranch? Mrs. Bacon can tell you all about it—ask her! . . . horse show lists of trophy donors will soon include the Metropolitan Horsemen's Association—Mr. Moller is the man in charge . . . Incidentally, the July 11th horse show is the ONLY horse show that the association is to sponsor—the one and only! . . . Important dates to remember—May 16th, June 6th, and July 11th!!! That's all!!!

Field Day at the Leona Stables

☆ Spring and Mr. Charles Hall certainly brought a hum of activity to the Leona Stables. Flag poles were erected, new jumping courses constructed, and horses schooled for showing. Then it was decided to have a Field Day, and April 18th was set aside as the day for the event. The program, patriotic in theme, was well planned by Mr. Hall and well received by the many spectators.

The bugler did a grand job in tapping out Boots and Saddles. This was followed by the presentation of the flag to Mr. and Mrs. Studley and a dedication speech by Mr. Harold Knudsen, President of the Metropolitan Horsemen's Association, in honor of the nineteen boys from the Leona Stables in the armed forces of the United States. Mr. Knudsen then had the group join in the singing of the Star Spangled Banner. The Pledge of Allegiance was given by Mrs. Studley and America sung loud and clear by the enthusiastic riders and spectators.

Among the riding groups standing at attention in the ring were the Mounted Patrol, the Rangers, the Sheriff's Posse, and the Leona English Division. Soon after the last notes of America faded away into the hills, the English Division went into action. Their exhibition drill was well worth watching and the jumping over the new course in Leona Flat resulted in thrills and excitement for all.

And thus ended a grand and glorious Field Day — 'tis hoped that there will be many more of them.

The Progressive Ride

☆ The date for the Progressive Ride is all set — June 6th has been selected as the day. Are you coming? Several weeks remain in which to get your tenth member. But then why stop at ten? Sign up twenty new members, if you can, and then bring along one guest. "Thirty new members will entitle you to two guests," says Ted Dryer, the association's Membership Committee Chairman. The committee is delighted with the results of the Membership Drive to date — the association's membership totals 474! From all indications past records will be shattered by the close of the present year.

As to plans for the ride — well, information regarding the stops to be made while progressing just isn't being handed out, it seems — 'tis a secret. But rumors have convinced us that 'twill be worthwhile. The third and fourth stops are to be "pipsy-wows!" So get your tenth member, by fair means or foul, and join the Progressive Ride on June 6th.

Here Lies Mule

☆ An interesting bit about an army mule was found some time ago in Crop 'n Spur, concerning Winona Alley's comment about Maggie's epitaph in the National Horseman. It was: "In memory of Maggie, who in her time kicked two colonels, 4 majors, 10 captains, 24 lieutenants, 42 sergeants, 432 other ranks, and one Mills bomb."

Correction: Anyone interested in obtaining membership blanks from the Mills College Riding School is asked to see Miss Cornelia V. N. Cress, owner and manager.

A NEW AND UNUSUAL SAVINGS PLAN

Most of us want to save money but find it difficult. This plan will save money for you and in addition pay up to \$200 to \$400 a month every time you are sick or hurt and from the first day. No matter how much we pay you, you don't have to pay it back.

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The Umbrella Was Expandable

☆ The grand combination of a Mills College Riding School horse show and sunny skies resulted in hundreds of horse show enthusiasts turning out for the Fifth Annual Bit and Spur Horse Show held on Sunday, March 14th. The Umbrella was jammed full!! "Sold Out" signs discouraged none who came without tickets — they stayed and somehow found their way in!! All had a great time.

This show, an annual affair, is given for members of the Mills College Riding Club so they can have actual experience in showing horses and in helping organize such an event. However, Shongehon members and riders with privately-owned mounts were also asked to participate, as well as members of the Women's Mounted Patrol.

This year, the perpetual trophy presented by Cornelia Cress and awarded to the Bit and Spur rider receiving the highest total score in the three phases of the Bit and Spur Special, was won by Mary Lou Hutton.

I Don't Like Horses

You may rail at the fools who talk Culbertson rules,
Or the lads who play cricket for fun,
You may kick at the man who goes wild as a fan
When the hero socks out a home run,
You may laugh at the nut who would die for a putt,
Or the backgammon players, of course,
But the crazy galoot that I wish I could shoot,
Is the guy who's been bit by a horse.

He will babble and gabble
And mumble and talk
Of the way a horse stretches
The grace of his walk,
Of the bridle and snaffle,
The whip and the stock,
The girth and the withers,
The rump and the hock;
The curbs and the spurs,
The stirrups and check,
The kick-board and cribber
The haunch and the neck;
The steeplechase hunter,
The bit and tack,
The canterer, pacer,
The filly and hack;
The Master of Hounds
And the aniseed drag,
The two-year-old winner,
The single-foot nag;

Horses . . . Horses . . .
Three-gaited horses, five-gaited horses,
Square-trot, walk-trot, jog-trot horses;
Horses . . . horses . . .

Go tell it to Peter,
Go tell it to Paul
Go talk to the grooms,
Or go sit in a stall,
Go get your damn ribbons
And go on a spree

But, for heaven's sake, dear brother,
Don't tell it to me!

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